ment have in principle taken a decision **to** bring forward **a** suitable legislation regarding refund of exicse and customs duties. The Government proposes not to refund such duties to manufacturers and importers as they wold have already paseed on. the duty burden to the customers. The proposed amendments are being formulated.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The amount of excise and customs duty repaid during 1987-88 1988-89, and 1989-90 are Rs. 233.32 crores, Rs. 278.45 crores and Rs. 333.09 crores respectively. The details of the amount paid to each party would be difficult to[1] collect since the number of such parties n&ay run into thousands and the time, effort and expense involved in collecting this information in respect of some thirty thousand recipients from hundered of offices situated all over the country would not be commensurate -with the results.

Offer of special assistance to India by IMF

42. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will **the** Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IMF is prepared to offer special assistance to India under the Contingency Compensatory Fin ancial Facility to meet her oil import bill;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would still seek a loan from the IMF.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE **AND** THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Discussions are being held with the International Monetary Fund to explore the possibilities of drawing resources available to member countries, in the particular from the Com-satory and Contingency Financing, Facility.

Negotiation with JAPAN to promote Exports and Tourism

43. SHRI S. MADHAVAN; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new stratecy has been worked out to generate additio nal exports, particularly to Japan in the context of the current balance of payments situation arising from Gulf crisis; and

(b) what steps have been taken to negotiate with Japan to increase ex ports and promote tourism;?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) Japan is one of the major countries identified as thrust markets for increasing Indian exports. Government is pursuing various export promotional steps to increase our exports to this market. These include regular interaction with the Japanese on official & trade levels, participation in major international fairs and exhibitions in Japan, Buyer-Seller meets, undertaking programmes with Japanese asistance to strengthen our export capabilities etc.

India is also receiving :aissis!tancie from Japan for the development of tourist infrastructural facilities in the Buddhist circuit. In September 1990, former Commerce Minister addressed a Seminar on India Travel and Tourism organised to launch the "Visit India Tourism Year 1991" in Japan.